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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY
Hungary

SUBJECT
Hungarian River Patrol/Megyer River Patrol Kaserne

DATE DISTRIBUTED
30 Apr 57

NO. OF PAGES
5

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

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This report is the result of a joint collection effort of the Air Force, the Army and CIA, and is disseminated in accordance with the provisions of NSCID #7.

1.

2. My basic training lasted from 9 Nov to 21 Dec 49. It was the usual basic infantry training and included the following:

a. Close order drill, saluting, military courtesy.

b. Gun drill and firing small-arm weapons such as the pistol, carbine and rifle (Soviet type), and the submachine gun.

c. Bayonet training.

d. Marches -- these were held day and night and were for distances up to 30 kilometers.

e. Night training -- covered attack and defensive tactics for the squad, platoon and company. The normal procedure was that an alarm would be sounded around 2300 hours and we would move out to the hills of Buda. Here we practiced offensive and defensive tactics. Afterwards we would have a meeting and critique.

f. Map training and map exercises -- covered map symbols, use of the compass, how to read maps, methods of finding direction by using trees, watches, etc.

g. Chemical training -- we did not receive any during our basic training. This came later as part of our regular training.

3. After I had completed basic training, I was granted Christmas leave. When I returned from leave,

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4. In 1950 and 1951, we received ski training in the northern part of Hungary at Matra Haza. Almost every type of unit had men there for the training. We received instruction on how to use skis and particular emphasis was placed on patrol training. During this training, we carried our weapons and had our rucksacks on our backs.

5. In the summer time, the Hungarian River Patrol normally has from three to six months of summer training. There is a summer training area [redacted] (Note: Source can pinpoint its location on a map) near Baja which is a city on the Danube. Both the Regular Army and the Reserves use this area. Units of the River Patrol train here separately and sometimes jointly. In May 1952, I received two or three weeks of summer training. This included training as a helmsman in one of the smaller boats. During this period, we either lived in tents ashore or else on our boats. I am not sure of the date, but I think it was in the fall of 1952 when the Hungarian Army conducted maneuvers and the River Patrol participated. I do not know what role the River Patrol played as I was due to be discharged and did not participate. 25X1

6. [redacted] it was steadily growing and many changes were made in its organizational structure and in the types of equipment that it used. [redacted] it was located in a kaserne at Laktanya Street 33, in Budapest. It was commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel (whose name I do not remember) who was dismissed by the Communists and replaced by Major Gyula Toth, a Communist. In November 1952, Major Toth was transferred to a Military Academy (Hadi Akademia) and Major Bokros became the new commander of the River Patrol. 25X1 25X1 25X1

7. In November 1949, the Hungarian River Patrol was about the size of a battalion. (On file [redacted] is a chart of organizational structure of the Hungarian River Patrol (1949) - CONFIDENTIAL.) Besides the Commanding Officer, it had a Political Officer, a Headquarters Staff, a Headquarters Platoon, a Signal Platoon, a Mine Layer Company and a Mine Observers Company. I will discuss each of these in turn. 25X1

a. Commanding Officer -- The Table of Organization authorizes a Brigadier General or a Colonel, but as I have already indicated the position was usually held by a Lieutenant Colonel or Major.

b. Political Officer -- He was responsible for our political training and had much authority, perhaps even more than the Commander himself.

c. Headquarters Staff -- This had five officers and included the Executive Officer, the Security Officer (AVO), the Commanding Officer's Aide, the Party Secretary, and the Personnel Officer for enlisted men.

d. Headquarters Platoon -- It consisted of approximately 25 enlisted men and included the cobbler, tailor, cooks, clerks, drivers, first aid men and other administrative personnel.

e. Signal Platoon -- I do not remember how many men it had but I do know that it had two telephone squads, one radio squad, and I think it may have had a second radio squad.

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f. Mine Layer Company -- It was responsible for the laying and picking up of our mines. Commanded by a Captain, it also had a Political Officer and three Lieutenants who served as platoon leaders. It had 90-100 enlisted personnel and was divided into three platoons. Each platoon had three squads and a Corporal was in charge of a squad.

g. Mine Observers Company -- It was responsible for the detection and removal of enemy mines. It too was commanded by a Captain and had a Political Officer. It also had 90-100 enlisted personnel and was divided into three platoons and each platoon had three squads. Lieutenants commanded the platoons and Corporals were in charge of the squads.

8. In early 1950, an Armored Company was added to the Hungarian River Patrol. [On file] a chart of the organizational structure of the Hungarian River Patrol in early 1950 -- CONFIDENTIAL.] 25X1 The other units remained essentially the same. The new Armored Company was responsible for teaching navigation and for training navigators. It was divided into three platoons. One platoon consisted only of gun crews. The other two platoons were each assigned a boat, and each platoon had three squads: one for the motor, one for the deck, and one for the anchor.

9. 25X1

10. The River Patrol continued to grow and by 1952, had become a "Dondar." [Collector's Note: A "Dondar" is a Hungarian designation for a military unit that is roughly comparable to something in between a regiment and a brigade.] [On file] is 25X1 chart showing the organizational structure of Dondar, 1952 -- CONFIDENTIAL.] It has an approximate strength of 86 officers and 1030 enlisted men. As I remember, it had a Political Section, a Headquarters Staff, a Service Platoon, a Signal Company, a Maintenance Unit, and three Battalions: a Mine Layer Battalion, a Mine Observer Battalion, and an Armored Battalion. The following information is what I remember about each.

a. Political Section -- It had approximately six officers and they were charged with the responsibility of our political training.

b. Headquarters Staff -- This included about 13 officers. Some of them were charged with personnel, medical and supply matters. I remember that three of them were AVO officers.

c. Service Platoon -- Consisting of approximately 30-40 enlisted men, it handled such things as transportation, maintenance and supply, finance, food and similar functions.

d. Signal Company -- It had approximately seven officers and 90 enlisted men. I do not know its internal organization.

e. Maintenance Unit -- I do not know much about this unit. It was separate from us and was located in Ujpest. I think it was almost the size of a battalion. [Collector's Note: Because source did not have more definite information as to the size of the Maintenance Unit, it has not been included in the figures of the approximate strength of the River Patrol.]

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f. Mine Layer Battalion -- It had 10 or 15 boats and approximately 20 officers and 300 enlisted men. It was divided into two Mine Layer Companies. Each of these Mine Layer Companies had three platoons and each platoon had three squads.

g. Mine Observer Battalion -- It had approximately 20 officers and 300 enlisted men. It was divided into two Mine Observer Companies. Each of these Mine Observer Companies had three platoons and each platoon had three squads.

h. Armored Battalion -- It had approximately 20 officers and 300 enlisted men. It was divided into two Armored Companies. Each of these Armored Companies had three platoons and each platoon had three squads.

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11. In 1951, a Reserve Unit for the Hungarian River Patrol was created. I do not know too much about it except that I have heard it is approximately the same size as the active Hungarian River Patrol. /Collector's Note: This would indicate that the Reserve Unit is about the size of a "Dondar."/ I do know that this unit goes to summer camp every summer for three months of summer training. I have heard that the Commanding Officer of this Reserve Unit is assigned by the active Hungarian River Patrol's headquarters.

Megyer River Patrol Kaserne

12. In 1951, construction was begun on a new kaserne in Ujpest for the Hungarian River Patrol. This construction was completed in early 1952, and in February of that year, the Hungarian River Patrol moved to its new kaserne. It is called the Megyer River Patrol Kaserne and its address is Ujpest 1 /On file 25X1 is a layout of the Megyer River Patrol Kaserne -- CONFIDENTIAL./ The old kaserne at Laktanya Street 33, in Budapest, was occupied by AVO troops. 25X1 25X1

13. I am able to draw a sketch of the approximate physical layout of the Megyer Kaserne /. There are about fourteen buildings of varying sizes in the Kaserne which is completely surrounded by a wire fence approximately 5 ft high on top of which are three strands of barbed wire. The buildings are of red brick construction and almost all of them have basements. Central heating facilities are located in the basement of the Medical Building. However, I do not know what buildings are heated by these facilities. 25X1

14. While I was stationed at the Megyer Kaserne, it was guarded only by River Patrol guards. There was an Officer of the Day in charge of the Guard and he and the personnel of the Guard were changed every day. There were no AVO guards.

15. A training field is located to the west of Megyer Kaserne. This is a sandy, open area about 1½ kilometers wide and formerly was used as a dump. As a result, numerous junk and trash piles are

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scattered throughout the area. Training was conducted here by all kinds of troops from the Budapest area including AVO troops. Infantry units held small practice maneuvers here in which some were designated as the aggressors and others as defenders. The AVO troops received the usual infantry tactical training and sometimes took part in the practice maneuvers. Blank cartridges were frequently used in these maneuvers. Part of this training area is occupied by an Ammunition Depot which is enclosed by a wire fence. As I remember, there are three or four magazine-type structures in the Depot. In addition to the wire fence, the Ammunition Depot is also protected by walking guards.

16. There is a water purification system located across the road from the training field. It consists of several small, round, stone buildings enclosed by a wire fence. A water pipeline was being laid when I was there in 1952. I do not know where the water from this purification system is used.

17. Across the road from the Megyer Kaserne, they planned to build piers and docks on the Danube River for the boats of the River Patrol. I do not know if this has been done or not. The Danube is approximately 600 meters wide in this stretch of the river.

18. In 1956, I passed by the Megyer Kaserne and noticed that another new kaserne was being built in the area adjacent to and west of the training field which I have already described [redacted] Several of the buildings had been completed in this new kaserne. I noticed that they were two or three stories high and of red brick construction. I saw some troops around these buildings who were wearing the uniforms of ground observers. Ground observers come under the Ministry of Interior. In the beginning they wore the same uniform as the police - medium blue, with bright, light green shoulder boards and collar tabs. Later they wore khaki uniforms with light green collar tabs and medium blue braid.

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/On file [redacted] are the following:

a. Organizational Structure of the Hungarian River Patrol (1949) - CONFIDENTIAL.

b. Organizational Structure of the Hungarian River Patrol (early 1950) - CONFIDENTIAL.

c. Organizational Structure of Dondar (1952) - CONFIDENTIAL.

d. Megyer River Patrol Kaserne - CONFIDENTIAL./

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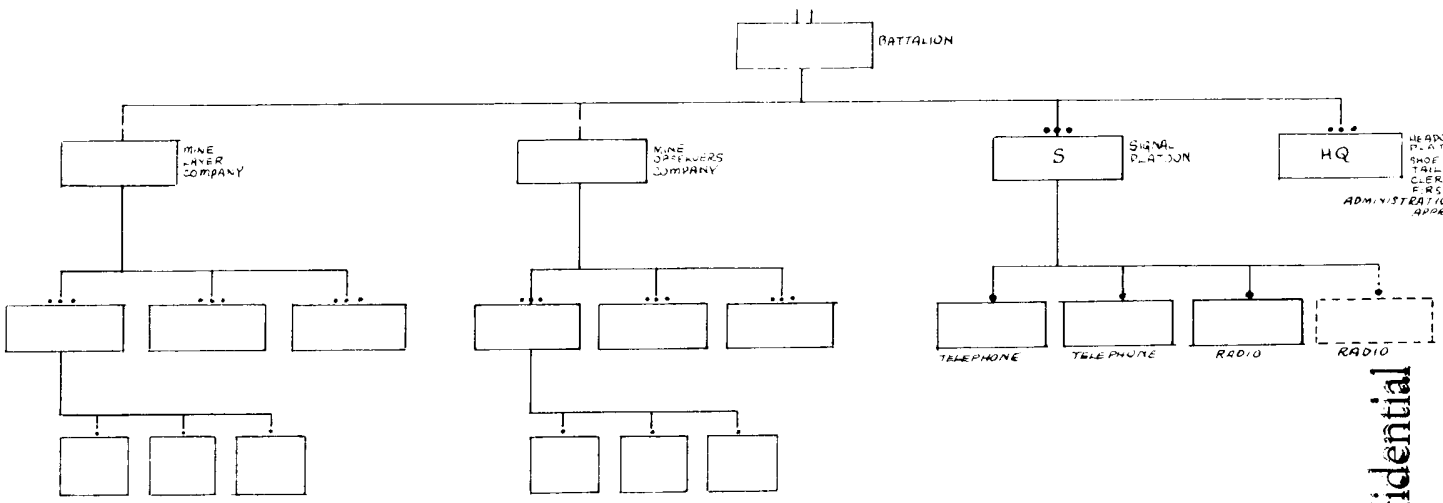

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ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF THE HUNGARIAN RIVER PATROL

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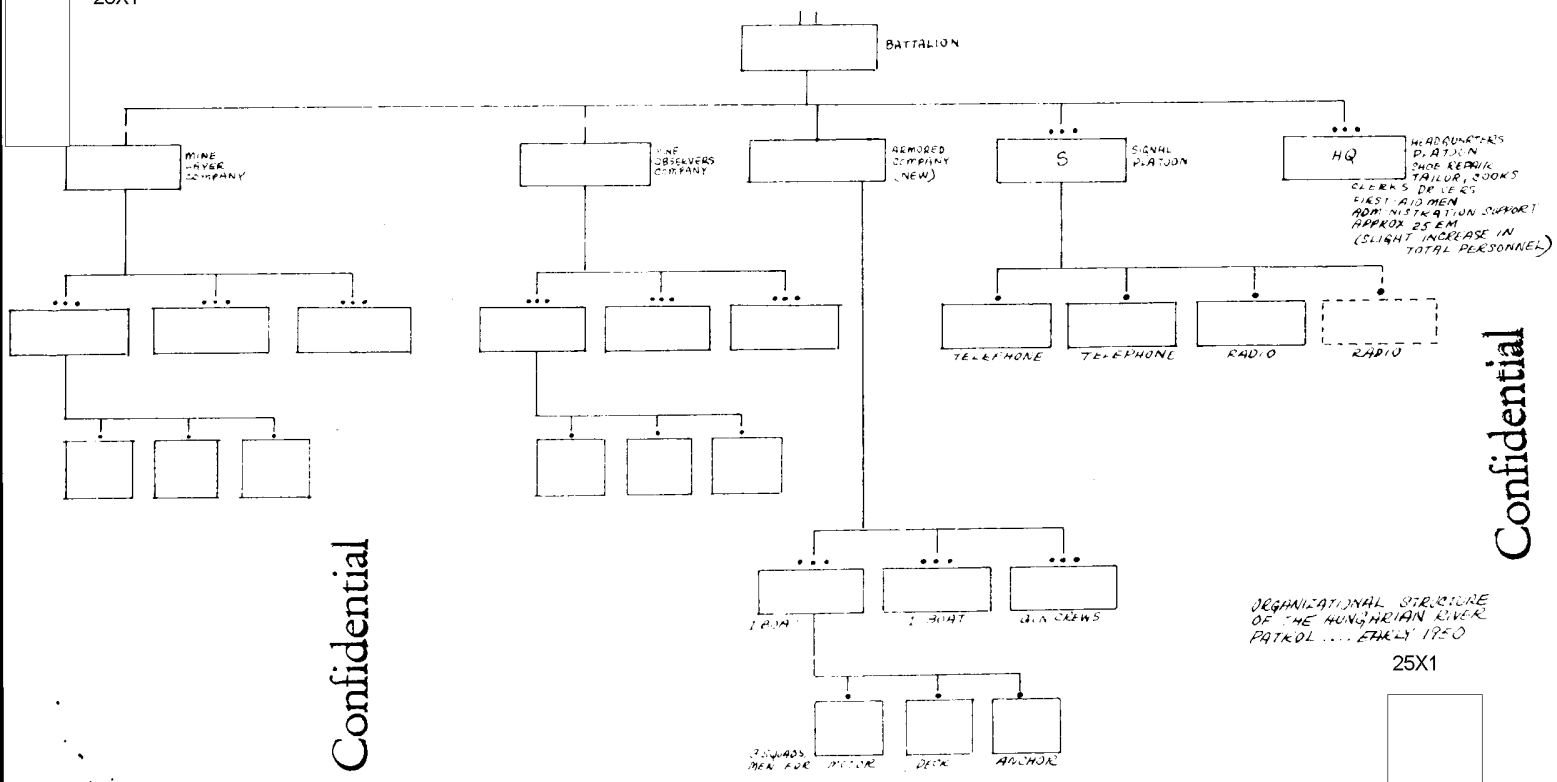

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE HUNGARIAN RIVER PATROL .... EARLY 1950

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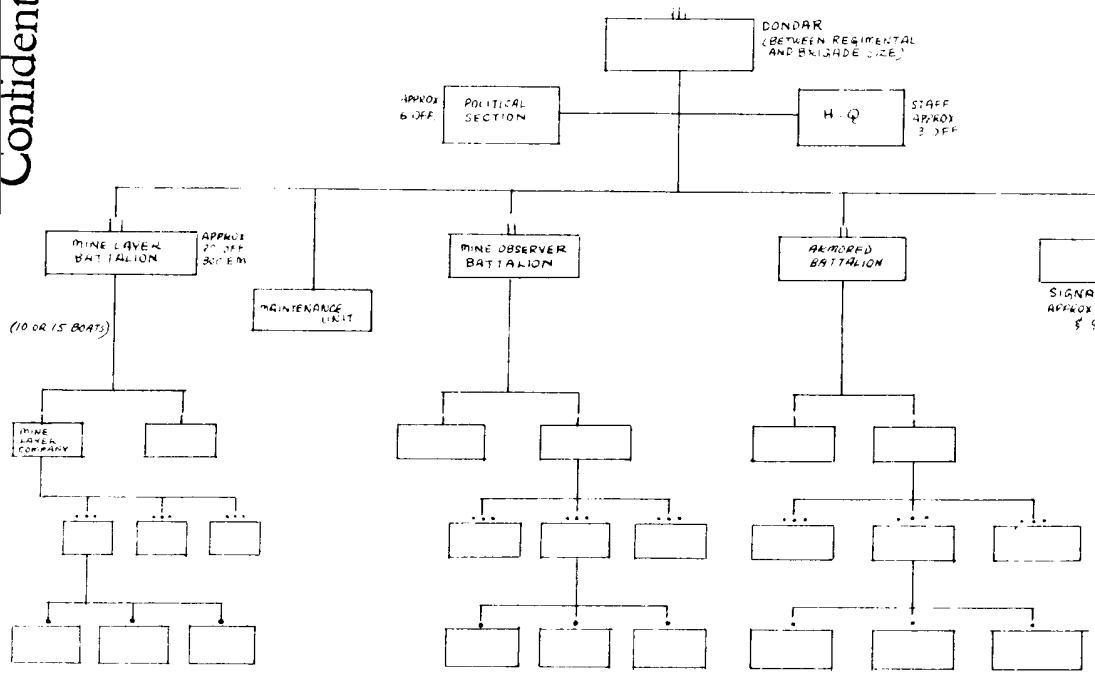

OFFICERS :

6	POLITICAL SECTION
13	STAFF
60	THREE BATTALIONS
7	SIGNAL
86	OFFICERS

ENLISTED MEN :

900	THREE BATTALIONS
90	SIGNAL COMPANY
40	SERVICE PLATOON
1030	EM.

25X1

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF DONDAR (BETWEEN REGIMENTAL ABOUT BRIGADE SIZE) 1952 (PROBABLY) FEW MAJOR CHANGES TO 1956)

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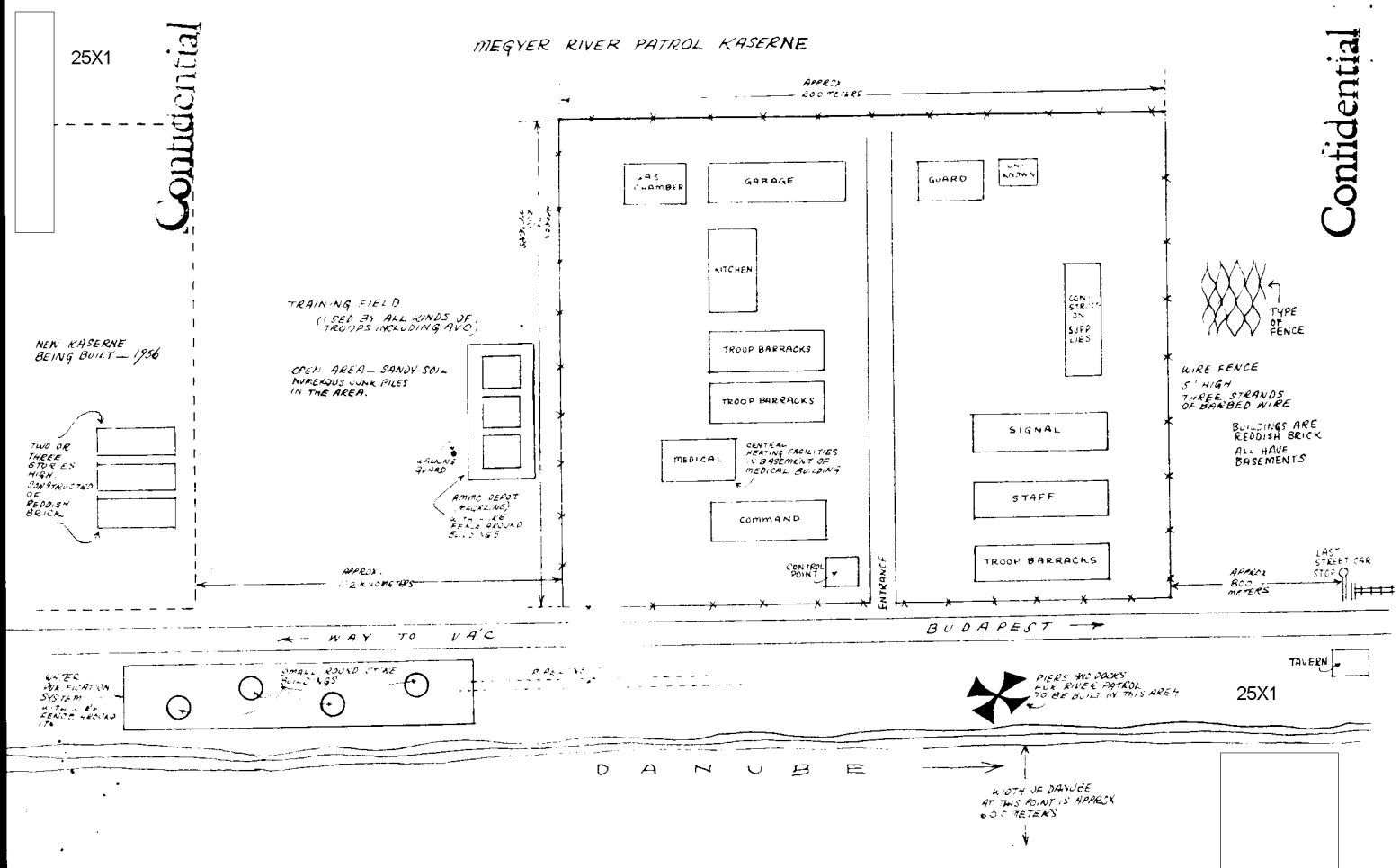
MEGYER RIVER PATROL KASERNE



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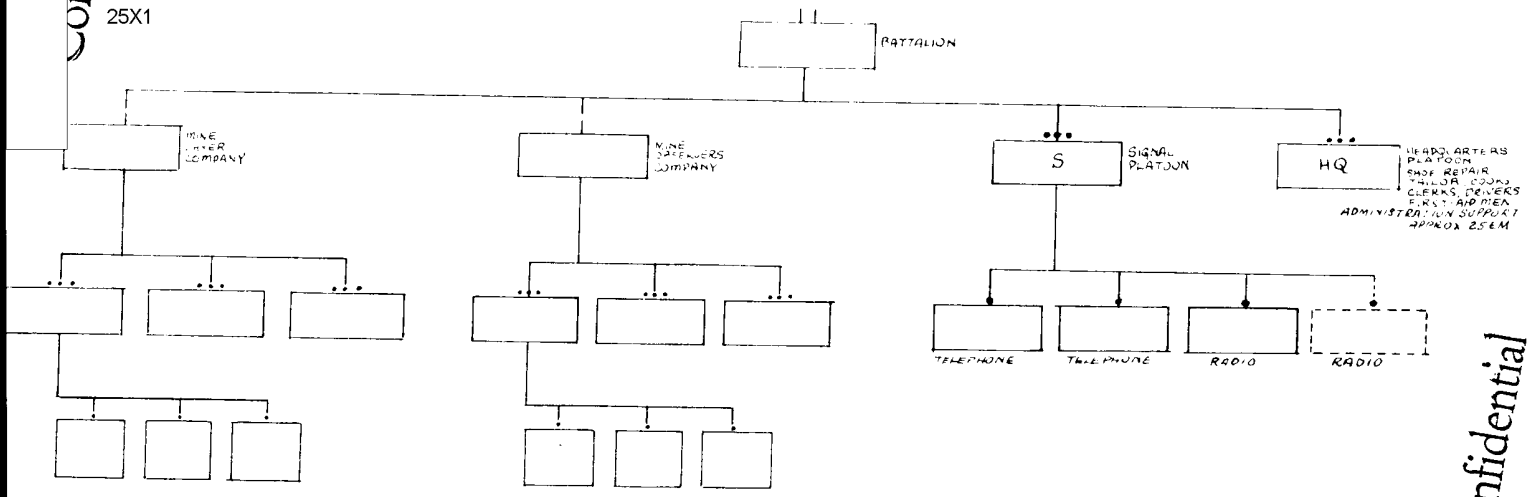

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF THE HAN SAVIAN RIVER PATROL

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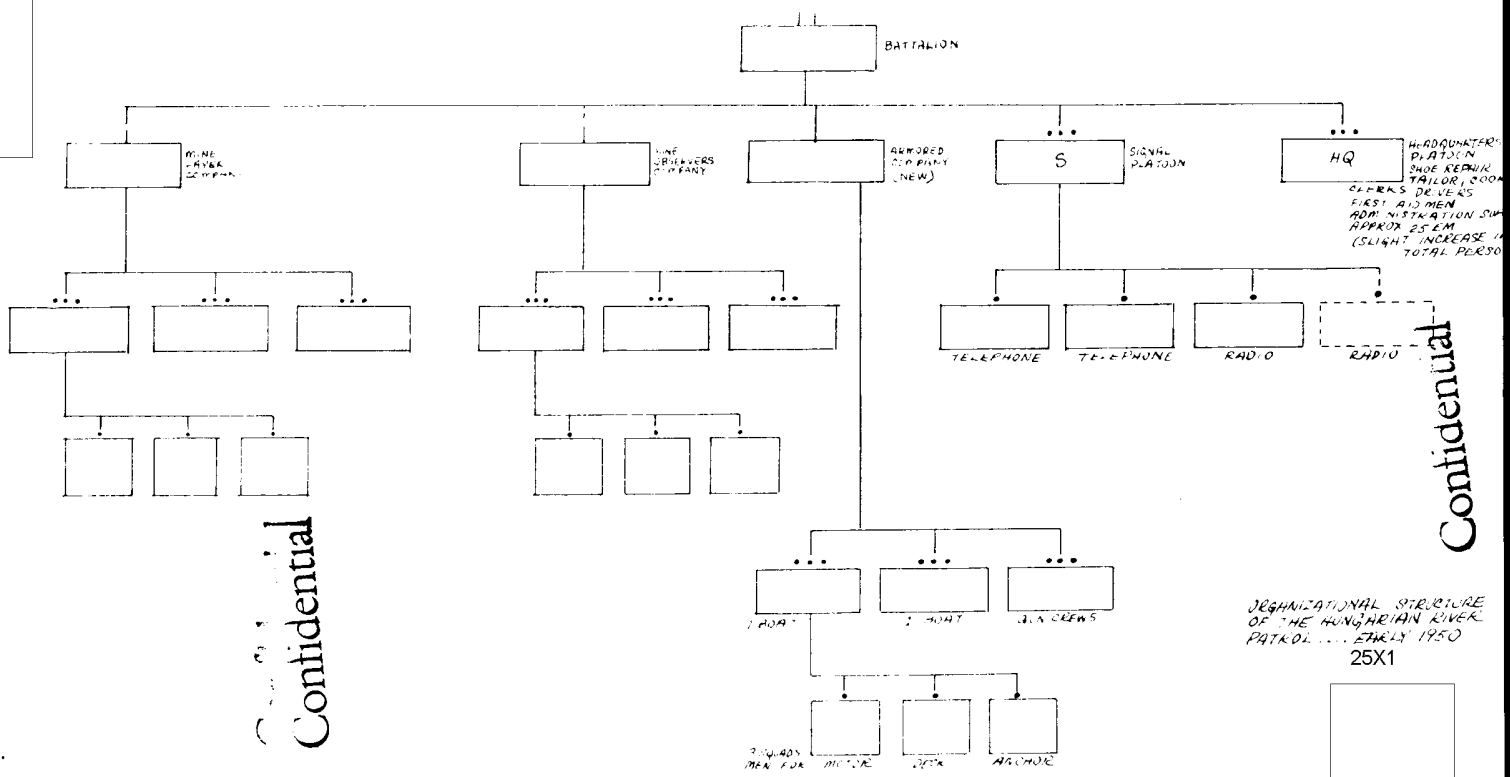

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE HUNGARIAN RIVER PATROL .... EARLY 1950

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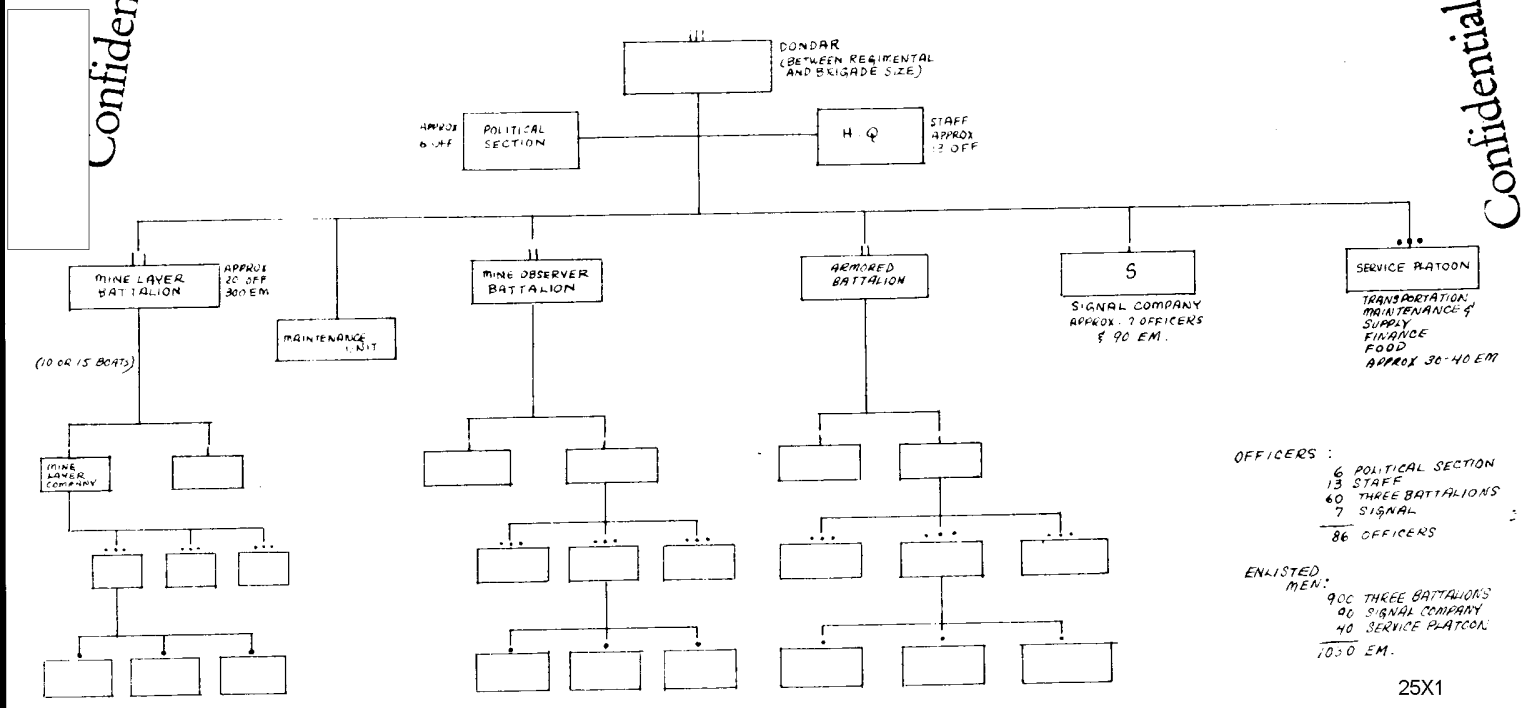

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF DONDAR (BETWEEN REGIMENTAL ABOUT BRIGADE SIZE) 1952 (PROBABLY FEW MAJOR CHANGES TO 1956)

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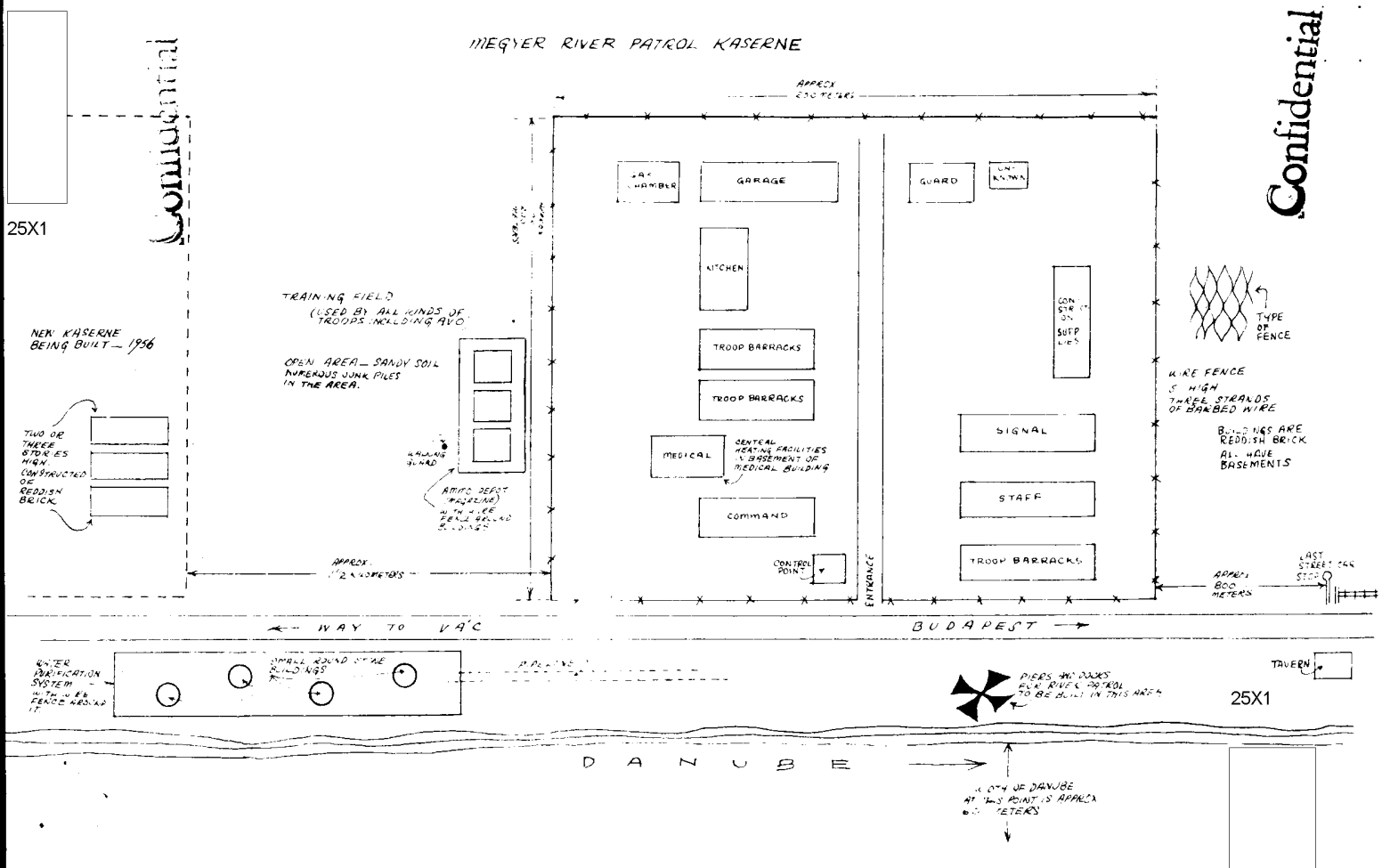
MEGYER RIVER PATROL KASERNE



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